



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

CONSTANCE ROBINSON TROMBONE RECITAL

Jingyo Bai, piano
Cal Elrod, bass trombone

MARCH 29 | 5:30 PM

HARRIS CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Albert Nguyen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Debra Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

I, Too

Florence Price (1887-1953)
arr. Anthony Wise

Waltzing Moose
from *The Moose Suite*

Saskia Apon (b. 1953)

Nostalgia

Sonia I. Morales Santos (b. 1961)

A Caged Bird

Barbara York (1949-2020)

Balkanika

Daniela Candillari (b. 1979)

PROGRAM NOTES

Florence Price (1887-1953) was an American composer pianist and teacher. She is the first African American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and have her compositions be played by a major orchestra. *Fantasy in Purple* (1940) is originally a vocal piece with words written by Langston Hughes. Based on the word “beat the drums of tragedy and death” this is not a happy song. Through the dynamic highs and lows you will hear the acceptance of death and tragedy.

Saskia Apon (b.1957) is a Dutch composer. She studied harp at the Rotterdam Conservatory and is currently the arranger in residence for the Rotterdam Philharmonic. *Waltzing Moose* (2003) is the final movement of *The Moose Suite*. This piece is written for bass trombone. In the final movement it's a dancing moose which you can feel in the bounciness of each note. If we picture a waltzing moose, he would be pretty heavy, this is captured with the marcato style mixed with the lower register of the piece.

Sonia Ivette Morales-Matos (b.1961) is a Puerto Rican composer, performer, and educator. She studied composition and jazz at Berklee College of Music and Indiana University in Bloomington. *Nostalgia* was originally written for clarinet and piano but was transcribed for other instruments like trombone and alto saxophone. This is a lyrical piece that feels dream like to give you a nostalgic feeling. This is done with the long phrases and connected notes. It doesn't get very loud, so it keeps you in a calm state.

Barbara York (1949-2020) was a Canadian/American composer best known for her works for euphonium and tuba. She worked as a collaborative pianist at Pittsburgh State University where she originally started composing for brass. *A Caged Bird* (2014) is a piece for trombone commissioned by the International Women's Brass Conference. It takes inspiration from social issues and situations that cause restrictive or imprisoning boundaries, mirroring a bird's desire for freedom and its inability to escape its confines. Through her use of harmony, rhythm, York conveys the emotional intensity of this theme. The music fluctuates between moments of intense, dynamic sections that represent the frustration of being trapped and delicate sections symbolizing the bird's short moments of peace. Ultimately, *A Caged Bird* speaks to themes of freedom, constraint, and the complex emotions. It invites both the performer and listener to reflect on the universal longing for freedom and the challenges of breaking free from limitations.

Daniela Candillari (1979) is a Slovenian conductor and composer. She is the current conductor at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. *Balkanika* was commissioned by Nick Schwartz and John Sebastian Vera for the Third Coast Trombone Retreat (2014). This was the first piece by her that was written for brass instruments. The piece is likely inspired by the Balkan Region where she was born. There is a serpent like feel to some parts and a sorrowful feel in the beginning.